

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01162 121154Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /056 W

----- 098705

R 121000Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3370

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

JCS WASHINGTON DC

DA WASHINGTON DC

CNO WASHINGTON DC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1162

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : MASS, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE HELICOPTER SURVEY

REF : (A) MANAMA 1143 DTG 091227Z AUG 76 (NOTAL)

(B) MANAMA 1110 DTG 051305Z AUG 76 (NOTAL)

1. SURVEY TEAM SPENT PLEASANT AND USEFUL AFTERNOON AND  
EARLY EVENING WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE/HEIR APPARENT (AND  
ACTING PRIME MINISTER) SHAIKH HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA AUG 10.  
INFORMAL PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS OF TEAM WERE CONVEYED TO  
SHAIKH HAMAD, WHO WAS JOINED BY COLONEL (SHAIKH) KHALIFA BIN  
AHMAD AL KHALIFA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE BDF; LT (SHAIKH) HAMAD  
BIN IBRAHIM AL KHALIFA, WHO IS ABOUT TO DEPART BAHRAIN FOR  
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 01162 121154Z

INSTRUCTOR PILOT TRAINING IN THE U.S. AND COL. IHSAN SHURDOM,

BDF AIR WING COMMANDER ON SECONDMENT FROM JORDAN. ENTIRE SURVEY, TEAM IN ADDITION TO CHARGE ATTENDED SESSION, WHICH WAS HELD ON HEIR APPARENT'S PRIVATE YACHT, JUST OFF-SHORE FROM HIS PRIVATE GARDEN ON THE WEST COAST OF BAHRAIN.

2. TEAM LEADER COL. MCCONNELL GAVE AN APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MINUTE PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY FINDINGS. SHAIKH HAMAD HAD MANY QUESTIONS WHICH WERE FIELDLED TO HIS SATISFACTION. SOMEWHAT TO EMBASSY SURPRISE, SHAIKH HAMAD DID NOT SEEM DISAPPOINTED THAT TEAM DID NOT RECOMMEND "OFFENSIVE ARMAMENT" AND HIS MAJOR INTEREST SEEMED TO BE IN THE QUESTION, NOT ADDRESSED BY THE TEAM, OF WHETHER BAHRAIN MIGHT BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS A REGIONAL REPAIR/MAINTENANCE CENTER FOR HELICOPTERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. TEAM AND EMBASSY MADE SOME INFORMAL COMMENTS IN THAT REGARD, SUGGESTING THAT SHAIKH HAMAD FIRST CONDUCT A "MARKET SURVEY" AMONGST REGIONAL ARAB AND PERHAPS IRANIAN MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO USE BAHRAIN AS SUCH A CENTER (AS SOME OF THEM DO FOR NAVAL SHIP REPAIRS). IF THEIR RESPONSE WERE POSITIVE, THEN HE MIGHT PURSUE WITH COMMERCIAL FIRMS THE QUESTION OF A JOINT VENTURE UNDERTAKING TO ESTABLISH SUCH A CENTER.

3. TEAM DEPARTED BAHRAIN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 12 HAVING DONE, AS AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT IN REF A, A THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL JOB IN A SENSITIVE AREA FRAUGHT WITH POTENTIAL PROBLEMS.  
BURLEIGH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MASS, BA, US  
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